

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 USIA-06 /019 W

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P 091045Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2652

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION

REF: CAIRO 2545

FROM MAESTRONE

1. FOLLOWING HOVING-MOUKHTAR CONVERSATIONS ANTICIPATED
REFTEL (PARA 3), HOVING'S ESCORT, JOHN DORMAN OF ARCE,
PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO DCM AT THEIR REQUEST. (HOVING
RETURNED TO NEW YORK AND MOUKHTAR DEPARTED FOR TEN DAY VISIT
TO BEIRUT EARLY SUNDAY MORING MAR 9.)

2. ACCORDING TO DORMAN, DR. MOUKHTAR LIKED HOVING'S IDEAS
RE HANDLING OF TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION TOUR IN US AND IS PREPARED
TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH METROPOLITAN MUSEM OF ART FOR
VISIT. HOWEVER, MOUKHTAR SAID HE FIRST NEEDS FORMAL INDICATION
THAT USG ACCEPTS EGYPT'S INVITATION TO SEND EXHIBITION TO US
WHICH HE CLAIMS TO HAVE EXTENDED TO DEPT (CU) DURING HIS LAST
VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ACCEPTANCE NEED NOT REFER TO METROPOLITAN ROLE
WHICH WILL BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN MOUNHTAR AND HOVING. MOUKHTAR
STRESSED NECESSITY FOR PROMPT ACCEPTANCE SINCE HE IS BEING
PRESSURED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY GERMAN FEDREP, TO
SEND EXHIBITION DURING SAME PERIOD.

3. TIMING OF VISIT WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY AS OUTLINED PARA 2 OF
REFTEL, BEGINNING IN WASHINGTON AND ENDING IN NEW YORK. DORMAN
HAD NO INDICATION OF CITIES TO WHICH EXHIBITION WOULD BE SENT

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DURING INTERVENING PERIOD. HOWEVER, MOUKHTAR DID MENTION THAT

NUMBER OF CITIES TO BE VISITED SHOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL
COMPLETION TUTANKHAMUN SOVIET TOUR IN MAY IN ORDER AVOID
RUSSIAN REQUEST FOR VISIT TO ADDITIONAL CITIES IN CASE NUMBER
IN US WERE TO EXCEED THOSE IN USSR.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SUGGEST DEPT CONTACT HOVING MONDAY, MAR 10
IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LONDON NEXT DAY
TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF METROPOLITAN ROLE RE TOUR.
IF DEPT SATISFIED TOUR CAN BE PROPERLY ORGANIZED, RECOMMEND PROMPT
ACCEPTANCE OF EGYPTIAN INVITATION WHICH EMBASSY COULD CONVEY BY
DIPLOMATIC NOTE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO02570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750082-0973
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750368/aaaacjph.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAIRO 2545
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION
TAGS: SCUL, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006